

Meeting of the Bureau of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics
Wednesday 23 September 2020, 15:30 to 17:00 (GMT+3)
Virtual meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda and background documentation is available on the [meeting portal](#).

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. The Acting Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Ms. Pernilla Ahrlin, Head of Unit at the Chemical Division of the Swedish Ministry of Environment, who has been nominated as a new member of the Bureau by the Western and Others Group, to replace New Zealand and attended the meeting as an observer, pending formal election through a formal written procedure.
2. The Acting Chair provided a brief update on consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 151st meeting which took place on 14 September.
3. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the fourth meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics

a) Provisional and annotated agenda for AHEG-4

4. The Secretariat presented a revised [draft annotated agenda for AHEG-4](#).
5. Clarification was requested on the status and format of the “summary” referred to under agenda item 6. The Secretariat clarified that it will be up to the AHEG-4 meeting itself to decide on the content and format of a possible summary of the meeting. Furthermore, the Executive Director is mandated to report on the work of AHEG to UNEA-5, and a procedural and substantive meeting report from AHEG-4 will be prepared by the Secretariat as per standard practice.
6. Following an exchange of views and clarifications made by the Secretariat, by which it was clarified that the order and time allocation for each agenda item, including with regard to the summary referred to under agenda item 6 in the annotated agenda, may be further considered in the context of the AHEG-4 Programme of Work, the draft provisional and annotated agenda for AHEG-4 was endorsed by the Bureau.
7. The meeting decided to reconsider the Programme of Work for AHEG-4 at the next meeting of the Bureau.
8. The Acting Chair announced his intention to develop a draft summary for the AHEG through an open and transparent consultative process, with the support of the Secretariat, and that he will seek support for this initiative from AHEG experts at the first virtual preparatory meeting on 28 September.

9. The Bureau took note of the proposal and decided to revert to this matter at the next meeting of the Bureau.

b) Explanatory note about and status of Pre-session, In-session and Post-session documents for AHEG-4

10. The Secretariat presented an [explanatory note](#), which was shared in advance of the meeting, on pre-session documents (working documents provided in all UN languages, and information documents in English only), in-session and post-session documents for AHEG-4, and reminded the Bureau that the working documents will be made available to experts 6 weeks before the AHEG-4 meeting, on 28 September, through the following [link](#).

c) Virtual preparatory meetings in preparation for AHEG-4

11. The Secretariat presented plans to organize two planned informal virtual preparatory meetings in preparation for AHEG-4, in line with the scenario note adopted by the Bureau at the previous meeting, with the aim to informally introduce all working documents for AHEG-4 and address any technical, operational and procedural aspects in preparation for the upcoming virtual AHEG-4 meeting which will take place on 9-13 November 2020.
12. The Bureau took note of the plans to organize the first meeting on 28 September as a short on-day session 2-4 pm Nairobi time, and of the webpage, agenda, registration, documents and allocation of time proposed by the Secretariat.
13. The Bureau also took note of the proposed dates for the second virtual preparatory meeting, which is foreseen to take place during 3 days from 20 to 22 October, 4 hours per day, with interpretation to all 6 UN languages.

Agenda item 3: Any other matters.

14. The Bureau agreed to hold the next Bureau meeting well in advance of the second virtual preparatory meeting, scheduled for the week of 26 October in order to facilitate timely consultations within the regions.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the Meeting.

15. The acting Chair thanked the Bureau and the Secretariat for an informative and productive discussion and declared the meeting closed.